

Spring 8-15-2013

ENG 2007-001: Creative Writing: Fiction

Lania Knight
Eastern Illinois University

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ENG 2007: Creative Writing: Fiction
Fall 2013, T/Th 9:30–10:45am, Coleman Hall 2120

Professor Lania Knight, PhD
Coleman Hall 3751

Office Hours: T 11–12pm, W 1–3pm, Th 11–12pm, Email: ldknight@einu.edu

This course is an introduction to the reading and writing of short fiction. Students will read lots of short stories, discuss the basic mechanics of writing short stories, and write their own short stories and discuss them in a workshop format.

Required Texts:

Kardos, Michael. *The Art and Craft of Fiction: A Writer's Guide*. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's. 2013.
Charters, Ann, ed. *The Story and Its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction, 8th Edition*. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's. 2011.
One Literary Magazine (TBA)

Grades:

Weekly Responses	300
Workshop Submission I	100
Workshop Submission II	100
Workshop Responses	200
Lit Mag Presentation	100
Final Portfolio	200
Total	1000 points

Be Prepared for Class

To prepare for each class, please do the following:

1. Be ready to participate in activities
2. Bring your textbooks and a notebook with you to class
3. Read the assigned material **before** class
4. Respond via Dropbox on Desire2Learn to the assigned reading **before** class

Reading Responses

You'll write responses to the readings from our textbooks for each class, which may or may not be shared during class (depends on time available). These responses are due the day before class via Dropbox on Desire2Learn by 5pm. Each response is worth around 20 points. For chapter readings from Kardos' *The Art and Craft of Fiction*, respond to exercise prompts as instructed in the weekly schedule. For short story selections from *The Art and Craft of Fiction* as well as *The Story and Its Writer*, answer at least five of the questions from "checklist: read like a writer" on pp.5–6 in *The Art and Craft of Fiction*. Please alternate which questions you answer according to what makes sense for the story selection. Your response to each short story should be 450–500 words long.

Attendance

I keep attendance. You may miss up to four classes. If you miss a fifth class, you will fail the course. Two late arrivals = one absence. Exceptions will be made only for documented emergencies and documented school activities.

Workshop Submissions

For each workshop, submit one complete short story. Each submission should be 10–15 pages (2,500–3,750 words) in length. Please do not go below or beyond the word count. You are free to write about any topic, but the material must be new and created for this class. Submissions will be graded for originality and risk. Does your story say something interesting? Is the writing elegant? Does it pull the reader in? Workshop sign up will take place early in the semester. Your stories will be due the week before your workshop and will be sent to classmates and the instructor via Desire2Learn.

Workshop Responses

For each workshop submission, type a one-page single-spaced letter (450–500 words) to the writer. Email this response to the writer and to the instructor by 9am the day of workshop. Your letter should address what you see happening on the page (describe the content and form), as well as questions for the author. The most important task of this letter is to reflect back to the writer what you see happening on the page and to pose questions and predictions so the writer can begin to see if you, the reader, have understood what they have attempted. Please send one copy of the letter to the writer via Panthermail and one copy to the instructor via Desire2Learn.

Lit Mag Presentation

Each student will obtain one current issue of a literary magazine (either through purchase or through Booth Library) and give a presentation to the class to describe what the magazine is about. Topics to cover include format/layout, descriptions of content, analysis of editorial choices, and what is appealing (or not) about this magazine as a reader and as a writer. Presentations should be 8–10 minutes and include A/V and/or handouts.

Final Portfolio

The Final Portfolio consists of two elements:

- 1) a significant revision of one of your stories, and
- 2) a reflection essay. For this essay, write an 8–10-page (2,000–2,500) reflection on the course readings, the activities in class, the stories you wrote, your revision, and any other material relevant to your development as a writer. This essay should connect the course materials and activities with your understanding of writing, and it should also demonstrate your lively engagement with the class and the process of writing over the span of the semester.

Students with Documented Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, you must make arrangements through the Office of Disability Services; you should contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Tentative Schedule

Week One

Tuesday, 8/20: Intro and overview

Thursday, 8/22: Reading: 1) Kardos Ch. 1 (respond to five prompts on p.11); 2) “Bullet in the Brain”

Week Two

Tuesday, 8/27: Reading: 1) Kardos Ch. 2 (respond to all exercise prompts); 2) “Magic Words”; 3) “The Appropriation of Cultures”

Thursday, 8/29: Reading: 1) "A & P"; 2) "St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves"

Week Three

Tuesday, 9/3: [no class meeting] Reading: 1) Kardos Ch. 3 (respond to all exercise prompts); 2) "A Fable with Slips of White Paper Spilling from the Pockets"

Thursday, 9/5: Workshop Signup; Reading: 1) "This is What It Means to Say Phoenix, Arizona"; 2) "On the Rainy River"

Week Four

Tuesday, 9/10: Reading: 1) Kardos Ch. 4 (respond to all exercise prompts); 2) "Drinking Coffee Elsewhere"

Thursday, 9/12: Reading: 1) "Midnight, Licorice, Shadow"; 2) "Hills Like White Elephants" (Charters)

Week Five

Tuesday, 9/17: Reading: 1) Kardos Ch. 5 (respond to all exercise prompts); 2) "This Blessed House"

Thursday, 9/19: Reading: "Why I Live at the P.O." (Charters); "How to Become a Writer"

Week Six

Tuesday, 9/24: Workshop (3)

Thursday, 9/26: Workshop (3)

Week Seven

Tuesday, 10/1: Workshop (3)

Thursday, 10/3: Workshop (3)

Week Eight

Tuesday, 10/8: Workshop (3)

Thursday, 10/10: Workshop (3)

Week Nine

Tuesday, 10/15: Reading: 1) Kardos Ch. 6 (respond to all prompts); 2) "Water Liars"

Thursday, 10/17: Reading: 1) Kardos Ch. 7 (respond to all prompts); 2) "Tandolfo the Great"

Week Ten

Tuesday, 10/22: Reading: 1) Kardos Ch. 8 (respond to all prompts); 2) "CivilWarLand in Bad Decline"

Thursday, 10/24: Reading: 1) Kardos Ch. 9 (respond to all prompts); 2) "Metamorphosis" (Charters)

Week Eleven

Tuesday, 10/29: Lit Mag Presentations

Thursday, 10/31: Lit Mag Presentations

Week Twelve

Tuesday, 11/5: Workshop (3)

Thursday, 11/7: Workshop (3)

Week Thirteen

Tuesday, 11/12: Workshop (3)

Thursday, 11/14: Workshop (3)

Week Fourteen

Tuesday, 11/19: Workshop (3)

Thursday, 11/21: Workshop (3)

Week Fifteen

Thanksgiving Break

Week Sixteen

Tuesday, 12/3: Reading: Kardos Ch. 10 (respond to all prompts)

Thursday, 12/5: Lit Mag Presentations

Monday, 12/9: **DUE by 3pm:** Final Portfolio